

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 AID-05 CEQ-01 OFA-01 COME-00 EB-07 EPA-04

NSF-02 OES-05 FEA-01 OIC-02 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-09 FRB-01

ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AGR-10 CU-04 DOTE-00 /157 W

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R 220920Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2452

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 NAIROBI 3222/1

VIENNA FOR IAEA AND UNIDO

PARIS FOR UNESCO

ROME FOR FODAG

MONTREAL FOR ICAO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNEP, SENV

SUBJ: UNEP GC/III, GENERAL DEBATE, US STATEMENT

FOLLOWING IS VERBATIM TEXT US STATEMENT TO GC/III.

STATEMENT DELIVERED BY HEAD US DELEGATION, CHRISTIAN

A. HERTER, JR. TO APRIL 18 PLENARY: QUOTE MADAME

PRESIDENT: I SHOULD LIKE TO ADD MY CONGRATULATIONS

TO THOSE YOU HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED ON YOUR ELECTION AS

PRESIDENT OF THIS SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL,

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AND I KNOW, FROM PAST EXPERIENCE IN WORKING WITH YOU,

THAT YOU WILL PROVIDE INTELLIGENT LEADERSHIP AND FIRM DIRECTION TO OUR PROCEEDINGS. WE WISH YOU EVERY SUCCESS.

AS OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POINTED OUT IN HIS INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, 'THIS THIRD SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL PROVIDES A TIMELY OPPORTUNITY TO ASSESS OBJECTIVELY HOW FAR WE HAVE COME IN TRANSLATING THE EXPECTATIONS OF STOCKHOLM INTO REALITIES, THE DIRECTION WE ARE HEADED AND THE METHODS BY WHICH WE ARE SEEKING TO ACHIEVE OUR GOALS.' FRANKLY, WE WERE PLEASED AT THE OBJECTIVITY OF HIS ASSESSMENT AND HIS CLEAR DELINEATION OF CONCRETE ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN BOTH PROCESS AND PROGRAMS. EQUALLY, WE WELCOME HIS RECITATION OF AREAS IN WHICH ALL HAS NOT GONE WELL AND WHERE THE RESULTS HAVE BEEN DISAPPOINTING. WE HOPE, MADAME PRESIDENT, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WILL BE EQUALLY RECEPTIVE TO OUR OBJECTIVE ASSESSMENT. WE WILL TRY AND BE BRIEF.

OUR CONCERN AT THIS STAGE LIES IN TWO AREAS - THAT OF UNEP POLICY, PARTICULARLY AS IT HAS BEEN ENUNCIATED IN A SERIES OF DOCUMENTS AND PAPERS THAT UNDERLIE THE WORK OF THIS SESSION; AND THAT OF THE PERFORMANCE OF UNEP, AS AN INSTITUTION, PLANNING AND CARRYING OUT PROGRAMS IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENT.

LET ME SPEAK FIRST OF POLICY.

AT STOCKHOLM WE AGREED ESSENTIALLY ON TWO OBJECTIVES - FIRST, TO IMPLEMENT PROMPTLY AND EFFECTIVELY MEASURES TO ENHANCE AND SAFEGUARD THE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE BENEFIT OF PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF MAN. WE HAD IN MIND THE NECESSITY OF LEARNING ABOUT AND TACKLING GLOBAL PROBLEMS THAT AFFECTED ALL OF US, DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING ALIKE. WE FELT WE SHOULD FIND OUT ABOUT THE EFFECT OF MAN'S ACTIVITIES ON THE AIR WE BREATHE, THE WATER WE DRINK, THE LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEMS - THE OCEANS, THE EARTH- ON WHICH WE ALL DEPEND FOR SURVIVAL. WE CREATED A UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME, AND WITH-

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IN IT 'EARTHWATCH', TO KEEP TRACK OF THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITION. WE NEGOTIATED CONVENTIONS TO SAFEGUARD THE OCEANS, WE INITIATED RESEARCH ON TROPICAL FORESTS AND ARID LANDS, AND WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF ESTABLISHING AN INTERNATIONAL REGISTER OF POTENTIALLY TOXIC CHEMICALS. WE HAVE BEGUN, ALBEIT SLOWLY, TO IMPLEMENT THE FIRST OBJECTIVE.

OUR SECOND OBJECTIVE, OF EQUAL IMPORTANCE, WAS TO FIND THE WAYS AND MEANS TO ASSIST THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO IMPLEMENT ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES WHICH WERE COMPATIBLE WITH THEIR DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND WHICH WOULD ENHANCE, NOT IMPEDE, THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS. A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF OUR CURRENT AND FUTURE BUDGETS ARE DEVOTED TO THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SECOND MAJOR OBJECTIVE. THIS IS AS IT SHOULD BE.

OUR CONCERN IS THAT UNEP, AS A MATTER OF POLICY, IS EMPHASIZING MORE AND MORE THE THEME THAT 'ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS..CAN (NOT) BE EFFECTIVELY CONCEIVED AND REALIZED EXCEPT WITHIN THE LARGER FRAMEWORK OF THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS.' THIS MAY BE TRUE OF SOME GOALS, BUT WE CANNOT AGREE THAT IT IS TRUE OF ALL ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS, PARTICULARLY THOSE WHICH HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED TO REACH OUR FIRST OBJECTIVE AT STOCKHOLM.

FURTHERMORE, WE ARE CONTINUOUSLY EXPOSED TO RHETORIC TO THE EFFECT THAT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT CANNOT BE DIVORCED FROM THE COMPLEX OF ISSUES - ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, SOCIAL - THAT ARE NOW ENGAGING THE ATTENTION OF PEOPLES AND THEIR GOVERNMENTS. THUS, FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (GC/33), THERE IS AN EXTENSIVE IMPOSITION, LARGELY GRATUITOUS, ON THE INADEQUACIES OF THE PRESENT STRATEGY, TOUCHING AT LENGTH ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS, AVAILABILITY AND USE OF RESOURCES, FOOD PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION, TECHNOLOGY, INTERNATIONAL TRADE, POPULATION, PARTICIPATION BY ALL COUNTRIES IN THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS, AND PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTING MACHINERY. ONLY A FEW PARAGRAPHS DEAL WITH THE

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ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS INHERENT IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS AND WHAT MIGHT BE DONE ABOUT THEM.

IT IS OUR VIEW THAT IT IS THESE ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS THAT IT IS UNEP'S ROLE TO EMPHASIZE, NOT THE PHILOSOPHIC RATIONALE FOR A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER, IMPORTANT AS THAT MAY BE. UNEP HAS ENOUGH ON ITS PLATE WITHOUT TRYING TO REFORM THE WORLD.
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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 NAIROBI 3222

VIENNA FOR IAEA AND UNIDO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNEP, SENV

SUBJ: UNEP GC/III, GENERAL DEBATE, US STATEMENT

MADAME PRESIDENT, IN OUR VIEW, UNEP HAS A MISSION-
TO DEAL INTELLIGENTLY AND EFFECTIVELY WITH GLOBAL AND
REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS THAT THREATEN MANKIND.
THIS ORGANIZATION HAS TOO FEW RESOURCES - FINANCIAL AND
HUMAN - TO TRY AND ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS. WE JUST
WILL GET SPREAD TOO THIN. AS A MATTER OF POLICY, LET'S
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STICK TO DOING WELL WHAT WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE DOING.

TURNING NOW TO MY SECOND POINT, WHICH CONCERNS UNEP'S PERFORMANCE WITH REGARD TO THE RESPONSIBILITIES ASSIGNED TO IT AT THE STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE AND SUBSEQUENTLY CONFIRMED AT THE 27TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN RESOLUTION 2997, WE ARE FREQUENTLY REMINDED OF UNEP'S RESPONSIBILITY BY SUCH PHRASES AS 'OVER-ALL ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT', 'COORDINATION', 'CATALYST', AND 'INNOVATION'. ALL OF THESE WORDS SUGGEST THE NEED FOR DEVELOPING CONCEPTS AND FRAMEWORKS FOR CONCERTED ACTION DIRECTED TOWARD SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES. UNEP HAS, IN FACT, BEEN ENGAGED IN JUST SUCH ACTIVITIES SINCE ITS INCEPTION.

HOWEVER, WE HAVE WAITED AND WILL CONTINUE TO WAIT ANXIOUSLY FOR THE EMERGENCE OF THE RESULTS OF THIS CONCEPTUAL ACTIVITY IN THE FORM OF WELL-LAID OUT SPECIFIC PROGRAMS, DEMONSTRATING COHESIVE PLANNING TO ACHIEVE OBJECTIVES, AND IDENTIFYING THE BEST IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF EACH PROGRAM, BASED ON CONSULTATIONS BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE UN SYSTEM. IN THE CASE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN PROGRAM, WE HAVE SEEN THE DESIRABILITY OF SUCH AN APPROACH AND BELIEVE THAT THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED ARE WELL ON THEIR WAY TO DEVELOPING AND COOPERATING IN AN EXEMPLARY PROGRAM TO TAKE ACTION IN AN AREA OF GREAT HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE WORLD. HOWEVER, WE HAVE NOT SEEN SIMILAR PROGRESS ON OTHER PROGRAMS OF REGIONAL AND GLOBAL CONCERN. WE RECOGNIZE THAT MOVING HEADQUARTERS TO NAIROBI, RECRUITING STAFF AND A VARIETY OF OTHER MATTERS COMPLICATE PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT; WE ALSO RECOGNIZE THAT UNTIL COHESIVE PLANS COULD BE DEVELOPED, IT WAS USEFUL FOR UNEP TO RESPOND TO THE PROPOSALS OF OTHERS. BUT WE BELIEVE THAT TIME IS PAST AND THAT LEADERSHIP, COORDINATION AND INNOVATION ARE THE OPERATIVE WORDS NOW.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS STRETCH BROADLY ACROSS EVERY AREA OF HUMAN ENDEAVOR, BUT IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR UNEP TO ADDRESS EVERY SUCH CONCERN. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HAS INFORMED US THAT MORE THAN 250 PROJECTS COVERING UNCLASSIFIED

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ALL PRIORITY AREAS AND ALL MAJOR REGIONS OF THE WORLD HAVE BEEN INITIATED. WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT USEFUL OR DESIRABLE TO ATTEMPT TO COVER SUCH A BROAD ARRAY OF SUBJECT MATTER. WE ARE OF THE OPINION THAT RESOURCES WILL BE DISSIPATED WITH LITTLE BENEFIT TO THE INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT. THE ALTERNATIVE IS TO CONCENTRATE

A MAJOR BULK OF UNEP'S EFFORT AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES ON A MUCH SMALLER NUMBER OF URGENT PROBLEMS. THE MEDITERRANEAN PROJECT WAS AN EXCELLENT START TOWARD A MORE EXTENSIVE PROGRAM ON OCEAN POLLUTION TO WHICH, ALONG WITH CONSERVATION OF NATURAL AND GENETIC RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING, THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALL ASPECTS OF 'EARTHWATCH,' AND PROCEDURES FOR INCLUSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS IN DEVELOPMENT, WE ACCORD HIGH PRIORITY. IN SUPPORT OF THESE PROGRAMS, UNEP SHOULD BE PREPARED TO CONTRIBUTE A SIGNIFICANT SHARE OF RESOURCES FROM THE FUND, FOR EXAMPLE, FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ATMOSPHERIC BASELINE MONITORING STATION IN COOPERATION WITH WMO AND IN AN AREA OF THE WORLD WHERE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS NEEDED.

MADAME PRESIDENT, I WOULD LIKE NOW TO MAKE A FEW CONCLUDING COMMENTS ON THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE FUND, THE HEALTHY GROWTH AND WISE USE OF WHICH IS VITAL TO THE SUCCESS OF UNEP.

FIRST OF ALL, MY GOVERNMENT HAS RECEIVED WITH GREAT PLEASURE THE NEWS OF THE PLEDGES OF INDIA AND THE USSR, NEW PLEDGES WHICH HAVE PUSHED THE TOTAL VALUE OF ALL PLEDGES WELL OVER THE \$100 MILLION GOAL FOR THE FIRST FIVE YEARS. WE SHARE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S HOPE HOWEVER, THAT THE GROWTH OF THE FUND WILL NOT STOP HERE AND WELCOME HIS STATEMENT THAT HE WILL INTENSIFY HIS EFFORTS TO OBTAIN THE PARTICIPATION OF MORE COUNTRIES IN THE FUND. ONLY 59 OF THE 138 MEMBERS OF THE UN HAVE MADE PLEDGES; WE HOPE OTHERS WILL STILL COME FORTH AND THAT THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY PLEDGED WILL CONSIDER INCREASING THEIR PLEDGES.

THERE IS ONE OTHER ASPECT OF THE FUND I WOULD LIKE
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TO DWELL ON FOR A MOMENT, AND THAT IS THE IMPACT OF THE RELATIVELY SLOW RATE OF ACTUAL EXPENDITURES ON THE RATE OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FUND. OUR TREASURY, OUR APPROPRIATIONS AUTHORITIES, AND, I SUSPECT THOSE OF MANY OTHER COUNTRIES, ARE LOATH TO MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS TO ANY PROGRAMS TOO FAR IN ADVANCE OF THE ACTUAL NEED FOR RESOURCES. THIS HAS MEANT, IN THE CASE OF MY OWN GOVERNMENT, A SOMEWHAT SLOWER PACE OF ACTUAL CONTRIBUTIONS PAID INTO THE FUND THAN WE HAD ORIGINALLY ANTICIPATED. MY GOVERNMENT REMAINS, HOWEVER, AS DEDICATED AS EVER TO THE GOALS STIPULATED AT STOCKHOLM; IN THESE INITIAL YEARS, THE PACE MAY BE SOMEWHAT SLOWER THAN WE HAD HOPED, BUT WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY THE RAPID GROWTH FORECAST BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. WHEN THAT GROWTH IS REALIZED, MY

GOVERNMENT FULLY EXPECTS TO DELIVER ON ITS PLEDGE.
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MARSHALL

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